

LETTERS to the Editor

Drug Dosage for Allergic Rhinitis

TO THE EDITOR: The "Specialty Conference: Allergic Rhinitis" [Calif Med 117:37-44, Dec 1972], is excellent.

In removing Tables 4 and 5 for permanent use, I have checked the drug dosages of several of the drugs listed on Table 5 against the 1972 "P.D.R." and find the following discrepancies: Actifed® Syrup contains triprolidine hydrochloride 1.25 mg/5cc and not 25mg as stated in Table 5. The Actifed Tablet and Dimetapp® Elixir dosages are correct. Triaminic® Tablets (timed-release tablets) contain phenylpropanolamine hydrochloride 50mg, pheniramine maleate 25mg and pyrilamine maleate 25mg. Triaminic® Syrup is the antihistamine combination most commonly used in our practice because it can be obtained over-the-counter at low cost. This contains pyrilamine 6.25mg, phenylpropanolamine hydrochloride 12.5mg and pheniramine maleate 6.25mg/5cc.

The amounts of the drugs for the syrups shown on Table 5 are per 5 cc. This was not stated in the Table. I did not check the dosages on the drugs not mentioned above.

TALCOTT BATES, MD
Monterey

A Correction

TO THE EDITOR: Dr. Hamburger is on sabbatical leave; I am pleased to respond for the Pediatric Immunology and Allergy Division.

We are grateful to Dr. Bates for bringing the discrepancies in Table 5 of the Specialty Conference [Calif Med 117:37-44, Dec 1972] to our attention and very much regret that they were not detected prior to publication.

The table was intended to indicate some of the medications that are available and is by no means exhaustive; alternative formulations and dosages exist for many preparations.

The reference to Triaminic® is to the timed-release tablet which contains pyrilamine 25mg,

pheniramine 25mg and phenylpropanolamine hydrochloride 50mg.

Dosages for all liquid preparations are for 5 ml.

H. ALICE ORGEL, MD, PH D
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Acting Director
Pediatric Immunology and
Allergy Division
University of California
San Diego, School of Medicine

Diarrhea in the Morning

TO THE EDITOR: I was interested in the extract from *Audio-Digest General Practice* titled: "Diarrhea in the Morning? It's Probably Functional" [Calif Med 117:74, Dec 1972].

In my experience I have learned there can be causes other than functional for morning diarrhea. I have been quite willing to rest on the diagnosis of a Functional Syndrome after first ruling out achlorhydria or even a severe hypochlorhydria.

I have had patients with morning diarrhea who had one of the thalassemias or chlorosis or Addisonian anemia (macrocytic-hypochromic) or carcinoma of the stomach.

LESLIE COLLINS, MD
Sacramento

More on Abortion

TO THE EDITOR: In his article on "Mass-Produced Assembly-Line Abortion" [Calif Med 117:80-84, Nov 1972], Dr. Ford calls for scientific and rational facts demonstrating the value of legal abortion. In contrast, however, his highly charged and pejorative remarks reveal his own bias, but do not contribute to an objective understanding of the current status of abortion. With a casual quotation about the naturalness of pregnancy and an accompanying erroneous allusion to ecology, Dr. Ford dismisses the rights of women in a fashion shocking for a physician who purports to be concerned for their care.

In New York and California, where he decries the frequency of abortion, the availability of this procedure has dramatically reduced the maternal mortality formerly associated with illegal abortion. In addition, Dr. Ford referred to the Joint Program for the Study of Abortion, but failed to